UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.3/52/8
17 November 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Fifty-second session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 105

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Letter dated 12 November 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, on behalf of the Dominican Republic and on my own behalf, to request you to arrange for the circulation of this communication. In this communication we call on all Member States to devote particular attention to the observance of the international day for the elimination of violence against women on 25 November.

It is most important that at a time when, despite the introduction of the observance of this international day, women continue to be the victims of domestic violence, social violence and the violence generated by the still numerous armed conflicts around the world the United Nations should place its incomparable seal on this significant commemoration.

The Dominican Republic and I, myself, as the Dominican Republic's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, which is so ably led by you, attach great importance to the introduction of the observance of the international day for the elimination of violence against women owing to the significance in Dominican history of the assassination of the Mirabal sisters, who, as Mariposa resistance fighters, opposed the regime of Trujillo, the tyrant who oppressed our country for over 30 years. The Mirabal sisters were vilely assassinated, together with Rufino de la Cruz, their driver, on 25 November 1950. This assassination provided yet further proof of the unlimited capacity of women to contribute to the struggle for freedom and peace, even going as far as making the supreme sacrifice.

We therefore urge all Member States to accord to the commemoration of this international day the same priority as that accorded to the observance of International Women's Day on 8 March every year, and that it should be

recalled that this was the contribution made by Dominican women to the advancement of the status of women around the world.

(Signed) Cristina AGUIAR
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic
to the United Nations